

HAROLD LETT

Harold Lett was born in 1897, and lived out his childhood relatively free of prejudice in Michigan and Minnesota. Lett believed in justice and fair play. He believed an open society would be the best environment for the growth of democratic values. Lett believed isolation of people, whether groups or individuals, fostered ignorance, fear, hate and endless violence. His life's work was in achieving justice for and integration of African Americans within the mainstream of American society. A decade of work in government and the Michigan chapter of the N.A.A.C.P. prepared him for employment within the Pittsburgh chapter of the Urban League as industrial secretary in 1930. Four years after, in 1934, he came to Newark as executive director of the New Jersey Urban League. He functioned throughout the state seeking jobs for African-American workers, working to solve school problems, handling health problems and initiating self help in the African-American community.

In 1945 Lett became assistant director of compliance for the N.J. Division Against Discrimination. Then in 1959 he was made assistant director for The National Conference of Christians and Jews in New York City, retiring in 1966.

Throughout his career Harold Lett was active in civic affairs, serving on numerous boards and commissions, with regard to housing, and labor management relations. He conducted numerous seminars in colleges and universities throughout America. He passed away in 1974.